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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-seventh session

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. At its forty-sixth session in October 1995, the Executive Committee adopted a decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 1996 (A/AC.96/860, para. 34) in which it set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee.

2. In accordance with the decision on Executive Committee Working Methods, also adopted at the forty-sixth session (A/AC.96/860, para. 32), the Standing Committee held four meetings in the course of 1996: in January, April, June and September/October. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 1995 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items (see Annex I).

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee is contained in the following reports: A/AC.96/861: *Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee (30-31 January 1996)*; A/AC.96/862: *Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (10-11 April 1996)*; A/AC.96/873: *Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee (25-27 June 1996)*; A/AC.96/874: *Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (16-17 September and 2 October 1996)*.

Issues covered by the Standing Committee in 1996

4. The work undertaken by the Standing Committee included a number of recurrent items. As foreseen in the Decision on Budget Structure and Governance (A/AC/96/860, para. 22(l)), in depth reviews of UNHCR programmes in different regions were conducted at each of the meetings, allowing the Standing Committee to oversee more effectively the evolution of General and Special Programmes in the areas concerned. Europe and South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East were reviewed in April; Africa in June; and Asia and Oceania and the Americas and the Caribbean in September. These reviews

were conducted on the basis of documentation agreed by the Standing Committee and, as foreseen, were introduced by the Directors of the Regional Bureaux concerned (A/AC.96/860, para. 22(m)).

5. In addition, the Standing Committee reviewed at each of its meetings regular updates on programme and funding issues, through which it kept abreast of the overall situation in terms of General and Special programme budgets, funding, and allocations made from the various criteria funds (programme reserve, emergency fund and voluntary repatriation fund).

6. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee also considered aspects of ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 on the strengthening of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. In accordance with the decision adopted by the forty-sixth session (A/AC.96/860, para. 23), the Standing Committee at its January meeting determined a framework for examining the different aspects of the resolution. In January it looked at aspects of emergency response, in April at solution-oriented activities in countries of origin, including protection considerations, in June it turned its attention to prevention, and in September it examined broader issues of coordination. A conclusion on these discussions is being submitted to the forty-seventh session for adoption.

7. In accordance with the Decision on Executive Committee Working Methods (A/AC.96/865, para. 32(d)), the June meeting of the Standing Committee focused particularly on questions of international protection. Two days were devoted to consideration of the Note on International Protection (A/AC.96/863), which examined on the question of comprehensive and regional approaches to refugee problems, and to a number of other issues stemming from the conclusions on international protection adopted at the forty-sixth session. It reviewed a progress report on the informal consultations on the provision of international protection to all who need it, UNHCR's role in legal and judicial capacity-building, resettlement, and the return of persons not in need of international protection. Conclusions resulting from the Standing Committee's consideration of these protection issues are being submitted to the forty-seventh session for adoption.

8. At its various meetings, the Standing Committee also reviewed audit and oversight issues identified by the Executive Committee. In January, it examined audit comments relating to procurement and property, in April it looked at the monitoring and control of implementing partners and in June it reviewed audit questions relating to training and consultancies. The Committee also took up broader issues of evaluation; notably, it revisited in June the evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Rwanda emergency.

9. The question of overhead costs of international NGO implementing partners was also addressed by the Standing Committee which, following a series of informal consultations chaired by the Rapporteur, adopted a decision in April establishing the conditions for a UNHCR contribution to such costs and a further decision in June setting the level of that contribution.

10. In terms of management and administrative matters, the Standing Committee was kept regularly apprised, by means of oral reports, of progress made in UNHCR's change management process (Project Delphi) and it reviewed a document containing the Delphi Action Plan at its resumed meeting in October.

11. The Standing Committee also undertook a preliminary review, in the light of the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ (A/AC.96/865/Add.4), of budgetary and financial documentation being presented to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee. Although the decision on Executive Committee working methods had foreseen that the Standing Committee would not meet immediately prior to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee, the timing of the issue of the ACABQ report was such that the September meeting had, nonetheless, to resume its work on 2 October 1996.

Standing Committee decisions

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions on matters included in its programme of work. The texts of these decisions are annexed to the reports of the different Standing Committee meetings as follows:

A/AC.96/861: *Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee 30-31 January 1996)*

- Decision on programme and funding
- Decision on the Medium Term Plan
- Decision on Property
- Decision on International Procurement
- Decision on UNHCR Financial Rules

A/AC.96/862 *Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee (10-11 April 1996)*

- Decision on programme and funding
- Decision on the support costs of international NGO partners
- Decision on audit follow-up: programme and financial management
- Decision on Executive Committee documentation
- Decision on amendments to the work programme of the Standing Committee

A/AC.96/873: *Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee (25-27 June 1996)*

- Decision on the annual theme for the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee
- Decision on programme and funding projections
- Decision on lessons learnt from the Rwanda emergency
- Decision on internal oversight mechanisms
- Decision on headquarters support costs of international NGO partners

A/AC.96/874: *Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (16-17 September and 2 October 1996)*

- Project Delphi

Plenary decisions: preparation of drafts by the Standing Committee

13. On the basis of discussions undertaken in the course of the year, and as foreseen in the Executive Committee's decision on its working methods (A/AC.96/860, para. 32 (u)), the Standing Committee initiated the preparation of draft decisions and conclusions for submission to the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee. In a series of informal consultations under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, the following draft decisions and conclusions have been discussed:

- General conclusion on international protection (item 5[1])
- Conclusions on comprehensive and regional approaches in a protection framework (item 5)
- Conclusion on the CIS Conference (item 4)
- Conclusions on the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 (item 5)
- General decision on programme, administrative and financial matters (item 6/7)
- Decision on Executive Committee working methods (item 8)
- Decision on the programme of work of the Executive Committee in 1997 (item 9)

[1] Numbers refer to items on the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1996

	30-31 January	10-11 April	25-27 June	16-17 Sept./2 Oct.
Regional reviews	• Global overview • Former Yugoslavia • Great Lakes	• Europe/SWANAME • Other important developments	• Africa • Other important developments	• Asia/Americas • Other important developments
Programme and funding issues	• Update on programmes and funding • UN medium-term plan	• Update on programmes and funding • Update on voluntary repatriation	• Update on programmes and funding	• Review of Overview document and related ACABQ report[1]
ECOSOC resolution 1995/56	• Overall discussion • Emergency response (MOUs, operational and financial capacity, consolidated appeals)	• UNHCR activities/protection role in countries of origin	• Prevention	• Coordination of humanitarian operations
Reports relating to oversight	• Procurement and property • Planned evaluation activities 1996 • Audit issues	• Programme and financial management, monitoring and reporting issues	• Joint evaluation of emergency assistance to Rwanda • Internal oversight mechanism	• Human resources management (training, consultancies) • Inspection and evaluation
Management/ administrative matters	• Progress report, including Headquarters staffing levels	• Progress report, including Headquarters structure • Information management	• Progress report on Project Delphi	• Delphi Action Plan[2]
Overhead costs NGO implementing partners	• Progress report on informal technical consultations	• Overhead costs	• Overhead costs	

[1] To be considered on 2 October.
[2] To be considered on 2 October.

	30-31 January	10-11 April	25-27 June	16-17 Sept./2 Oct.
Review of UNHCR financial rules	• Review of UNHCR financial rules			
1995 accounts and audit		• Preliminary report on 1995 accounts		• 1995 accounts and Audit Report[3]
Excom documentation		• Excom documentation		
International Protection			• Note on International Protection • The 'gap' • Legal/judicial capacity-building • Resettlement • Return • Follow-up to conclusions on international protection	
Annual theme			• Discussion of annual theme for 47th Excom plenary	
Draft decisions				• Review of draft decisions and conclusions for 47th session
Excom working methods				• Review
Any other business	• Any other business	• Any other business	• MBT rental costs • Any other business	• MBT rental costs • Strategic policy formulation • Any other business

[3] To be considered on 2 October.

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 1996[1]

1st meeting (30 - 31 January 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.1	Draft Annotated Agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.2/Rev.2	United Nations Medium Term Plan: 1998-2001 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Programme 20: Protection and Assistance to Refugees
EC/46/SC/CRP.3	Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees
EC/46/SC/CRP.4 and Add.1	Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1995 and 1996
EC/46/SC/CRP.5	Information Paper: Property
EC/46/SC/CRP.6	Background Note on International Procurement
EC/46/SC/CRP.7	Follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 - Operational and Financial Capacity of UNHCR in view of its Mandate and Role: Emergency Response
EC/46/SC/CRP.8	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56 - Information Note on the Development of Operative Memoranda of Understanding
EC/46/SC/CRP.9	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56 - Consolidated Appeals
EC/46/SC/CRP.10	UNHCR's Evaluation Activities for 1996
EC/46/SC/CRP.11 and Corr.1	Overview of Regional Developments (October to December 1995)
EC/46/SC/CRP.12	Consideration of ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56
EC/46/SC/CRP.13	Audit Issues
EC/46/SC/INF.1	Correspondence from the Permanent Mission of Sudan

[1] Standing Committee documents are available in English and French only.

2nd meeting (10 - 11 April 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.14	Draft Annotated Agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.15	Draft Report of the 30-31 January Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/46/SC/CRP.16	Follow-Up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56:UNHCR Assistance Activities in Countries of Origin
EC/46/SC/CRP.17	UNHCR's Protection Role in Countries of Origin
EC/46/SC/CRP.18	Update on Programme and Funding Projections for 1996
EC/46/SC/CRP.19	Information Note on Income and Expenditure for the Year 1995
EC/46/SC/CRP.20	Follow-up to Audit Recommendations: Programme and Financial Management
EC/46/SC/CRP.21	Report on Informal Technical Consultations on Overhead costs of NGO Partners
EC/46/SC/CRP.22	Executive Committee Documentation
EC/46/SC/CRP.23	Update on Voluntary Repatriation Programmes
EC/46/SC/CRP.24 and Corr.1	Update on Regional Developments in Europe
EC/46/SC/CRP.25 and Corr.1	Update on Regional Developments in South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East

3rd meeting (25 - 27 June 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.26/Rev.2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.27	Draft Report of the 10-11 April Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/46/SC/CRP.28	Lessons Learnt from the Rwanda Emergency: Further Reflections
EC/46/SC/CRP.29	Draft Report of the Secretary-General on Enhancing the Internal Oversight Mechanisms in Operational Funds and Programmes
EC/46/SC/CRP.30	Update on Programme and Funding Projections for 1996 and Tentative Estimates for the 1997 General Programmes Target
EC/46/SC/CRP.31	UNHCR's Role in National Legal and Judicial Capacity-Building
EC/46/SC/CRP.32	Resettlement: An Instrument of Protection and a Durable Solution

EC/46/SC/CRP.33	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56: UNHCR Activities in Relation to Prevention
EC/46/SC/CRP.34	Progress Report on Informal Consultations on the Provision of International Protection to all who need it
EC/46/SC/CRP.35 and Corr.1 (English only) and Corr.2	Update on Regional Developments in Africa
EC/46/SC/CRP.36 and Corr.1	Return of Persons not in need of International Protection
EC/46/SC/CRP.37 and Corr.1	Note on International Protection
EC/46/SC/CRP.38	Project Delphi
EC/46/SC/CRP.39	Information Note: Documentation Recently Issued by the Division of International Protection
EC/46/SC/CRP.40	Montbrillant Building: Rental Costs

4th meeting (16-17 September/2 October 1996)

EC/46/SC/CRP.40/Add.1	MBT Rental agreement
EC/46/SC/CRP.41/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/46/SC/CRP.42	Draft Report of the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/46/SC/CRP.43	Update on Regional Developments in the Americas and the Caribbean
EC/46/SC/CRP.44	Update on Regional Developments in Asia and Oceania
EC/46/SC/CRP.45 and Add.1	Audit of implementing partners
EC/46/SC/CRP.46	Reports relating to oversight: Human resource Management
EC/46/SC/CRP.47	Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56: Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
EC/46/SC/CRP.48	Project Delphi: Plan of action
EC/46/SC/CRP.49	Enhancing UNHCR's capacity for policy research, analysis and dissemination
EC/46/SC/CRP.50 and Add.1	Draft Report of Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee (16-17 September and 2 October 1996)